

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4911

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FRG

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 5038

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CSCE RO GW

SUBJ: CSCE/CBM'S: ROMANIAN RESPONSE TO OBSERVER INVITATION

REF: (A) STATE 232878 (NOTAL); (B) BONN 16155 (NOTAL)

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1. IN THE LATEST (SEPTEMBER) ISSUE OF "VIATA MILITARA" (MILITARY LIFE), THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE HIGHER POLITICAL COUNCIL OF THE ROMANIAN ARMED FORCES, A BRIEF ARTICLE SIGNED BY VASILE IOSIPESCU APPEARS ENTITLED, "GROSSE ROKADE". ARTICLE GIVES FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF EXERCISE, STATES THE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS AND TANKS, THAT APC'S, TRUCKS, AND VARIOUS ROCKETS WERE TESTED, AND THAT MANEUVER WAS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SERIAL EXERCISE "COLD FIRE". NO MENTION OF "REFORGER-COLD EXPRESS". (A NINE-LINE ARTICLE IN SCINTEIA ON 12 SEP 75 ANNOUNCED THAT FRG HAD NOTIFIED ALL CSCE SIGNATORIES THAT REFORGER 75 EXERCISE WOULD TAKE PLACE IN BAVARIA FROM 14-23 OCT 75.)
 2. ARTICLE NOTES THAT "FRANCE PRESSE" DISCLOSED THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAD NOTIFIED ALL SIGNATORIES OF CSCE FINAL ACT ABOUT CONDUCTING OF THIS MANEUVER.
 3. ARTICLE ENDS WITH FOLLOWING STATEMENT: "POLITICAL OBSERVERS CONSIDER THAT, EVEN WITH ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS OF FORCE CANNOT BUT VITIATE THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND GENERATE DISTRUST, WHICH PUTS IN STRIKING EVIDENCE THE NECESSITY OF LIQUIDATING NOT ONLY THE SOURCES BUT ALSO THE METHODS OF POLITICAL BLOCS."
 4. COMMENT: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THIS IS FIRST ROMANIAN PRESS COMMENT ON THESE EXERCISES AND, BURIED IN OBSCURE MILITARY PERIODICAL, IS ABOUT AS LOW KEY AS POSSIBLE. ISSUE WAS RECEIVED IN EMBASSY OCT. 3. ITEM IS NO DOUBT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION AND MAY HAVE NO BEARING ON WHETHER ROMANIA ACCEPTS INVITATION TO OBSERVE MANEUVERS, WHICH MAY STILL BE UNDER DEBATE INTERNALLY; WHILE GOR MAY BE ALL FOR NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS, IOSIPESCU'S COMMENT IS OUR FIRST HINT THAT RELUCTANCE TO ENDORSE SUCH "BLOC" ACTIVITIES BY PRESENCE OF GOR OBSERVERS, TOGETHER WITH STRONG SOVIET PRESSURE, MAY LEAD GOR TO DECLINE INVITATION.
- BARNES

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